



School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

Non-thesis General Instructions:

1. Prepare a short proposal of no more than 3 pages, double-spaced, following the instructions on page. 2.
2. Secure the agreement of two faculty members to serve as readers for your paper (one as chair), and have them approve the proposal. Approval does not require a formal meeting of the committee or a presentation of the proposal. Readers may, however, insist on revisions prior to approval.
3. With support and guidance from the readers, complete the paper. Have the readers sign the form approving the text of the paper (Approval part A). Readers may make approval conditional on the completion of specific revisions to the draft submitted to them.
4. Present the paper. Have the chair of the reading committee sign the form confirming that you have presented the paper (Approval part B). Presentation may occur before formal approval of the paper by the readers.
5. Submit the paper and the approval form to the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs' graduate program assistant.

Instructions MA Non-thesis Research Paper Proposal

Your proposal is a short document (less than three pages, double-spaced) that explains what you will do in your paper. Provide it to the faculty members you ask to serve as readers for your paper, and ask for feedback. Once you and the faculty members have agreed on the content of the paper, you may proceed with writing it. Each of the following components should be addressed with a paragraph.

- A. **Topic:** What is your research objective or question? Why is it worthy of study?

- B. **Relevant literature:** Reference at least 5 political science works that have addressed your topic of interest, and how your paper will relate to them.

- C. How will you answer the research question or otherwise address the objective? If you plan to test a theory, briefly sketch your intuition and state a hypothesis.

- D. **Methodology:** Explain how you will test your hypothesis or otherwise draw conclusions. Be sure to identify the kind of method you will use, the cases or population you will study, and how you will locate or access relevant data.